

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 5-36 are pending in the present application. Claims 5-14 and 19-26 are withdrawn from consideration. By this preliminary amendment, claims 1, 2, 15 and 16 are amended, claims 3 and 4 are cancelled, and new claims 27-36 are added.

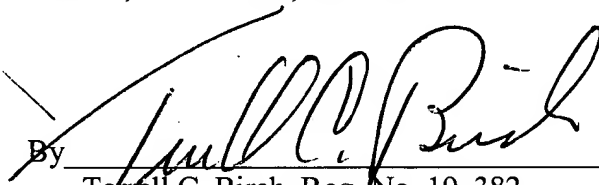
Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Carolyn T. Baumgardner (Reg. 41,345) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By   
Terrell C. Birch, Reg. No. 19,382

0033-0630P

TCB/CTB/mpe

Attachment: Version with Markings to show Changes Made

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000

(Rev. 12/19/01)

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the Claims:**

*Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled.*

*The claims have been amended as follows:*

1. (Amended) An image retrieval information storing apparatus, comprising:  
[a coding information reading unit reading prescribed coding information which will be information representing frame feature from coded image data;]  
a frame feature value generating unit [connected to said coding information reading unit, and] for generating a frame feature value which is a numerical representation of [the] a frame feature[,], based on [said coding information] image data; and  
a frame value storing unit [connected to said frame feature value generating unit,] [and] for storing said frame feature value [in correspondence with each frame of] corresponding to said image data, the frame value storing unit being connected to said frame feature value generating unit.
2. (Amended) The image retrieval information storing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:  
an index information generating unit [connected to said frame feature value generating unit,] for determining a feature frame among said image data [based on said frame feature value,] and for generating index information which is positional information of said featured frame; and  
an index information storing unit [connected to said index information generating unit and] for storing said index information, the index information storing unit being connected to said index information generating unit.
15. (Amended) An image retrieving apparatus, comprising:  
an index information generating unit for receiving a frame feature value which is a numerical representation of a frame feature corresponding to [each] a frame of [coded] image

data, for determining a featured frame among said image data based on said frame feature value in accordance with a request for extracting a featured frame, and for generating index information which is positional information of said featured frame; and

a first image retrieval executing unit connected to said index information generating unit, for transmitting said request for extracting a featured frame to said index information generating unit, for receiving said index information from said index information generating unit, for receiving said image data from outside, and for outputting a frame specified based on said index information.

16. (Amended) The image retrieving apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said first image retrieval executing unit includes a second image retrieval executing unit connected to said index information generating unit, the second image retrieval executing unit transmitting said request for extracting a featured frame to said index information generating unit, receiving said index information from said index information generating unit, receiving said image data and index information from outside, and outputting a frame specified based on said index information received from said index information generating unit and from outside.

Claims 27-36 have been added.